

Late Breaking News, Friday, February 12, 2010

There will be no school Monday, February 15th for Presidents' Day

- **Thank You:** The Village School would like to give a huge thank you to Parent and EWEB Educational Outreach Coordinator, John Femal who recently helped to teach a Magnetism and Electricity main lesson block in the 6th grade. Additionally, John, and EWEB donated two crates of science curriculum and equipment to the Village School which will help to facilitate the continuation of hands-on science instruction in the school. Please see the "Hidden Circuits" projects outside of the 6th grade classroom for a sampling of the science unit. Thank you EWEB and thank you, John!
- **Thank You:** Everyone who helped make this year's Heart of the Village Festival a great success! A jolly good time was had by all!
- **Village School Board Meeting:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 5:30 PM in Room 10. There are two current open positions on the Village School Board of Directors: Secretary and Treasurer.

The Village School Board of Directors is actively recruiting members of our community and the greater Eugene community to consider volunteering for the positions of Board Secretary and Board Treasurer. If you or someone who you know is interested, please attend an upcoming Board meeting (2/16/10 at the school) or talk with any of our current Board members. A list of Board members and their contact information is available on the school web site: <http://www.mediate.com/village/pg69.cfm>.

- **Oregon Department of Education** requires all charter schools to participate in this annual survey. This survey is used to collect information that we report to the United States Department of Education (USDE). The information reported to the USDE is aggregate data (which means it is combined to reflect all charter schools in the state, not individual schools).

Each charter school can access the school level results – and many charter schools use this information as part of their annual report to the sponsoring school district and board and for renewal data.

There are three parts to the survey – a staff survey, a parent survey and a student survey. Please select the Parent Survey. No login is needed and the survey is online. It is located at:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/surveys/default.aspx>

The survey is open today and will remain open until June 15, 2010 in order to facilitate your schedules. Please notify the office after your family has completed the survey. It will remain anonymous, but we would like to track that each family is completing it.

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Ashleigh is working hard to help all families find meaningful ways to get involved: Class play rehearsals, Festivals, Field trips, Teacher assistance, Office assistance. Please call Ashleigh at 541-345-7285 to get involved today.
- **New Sibling Applications:** Although new siblings receive priority for spots, they can only be admitted on a space available basis. In the event there are more sibling applicants than there are spaces, a lottery will

be held to place those students in spots or on the wait list. The **deadline** for handing in New Sibling Applications is **Friday, February 19, 2010**.

- **Online Resource:** Please check our website for ongoing community opportunities, <http://eugenevillageschool.org>
- **Homework Club:** Join us every Wednesday after school in Room 10 until 4 PM.
- **Seventh and Eighth Grade Homework Help** is available Mon., Tues., Wed., and Fri. from 3-3:45 with Justin and Mr. T.
- **The Village School's Student Work will be on Display at the Library:** For the months of February and March, the Eugene Public Library will display samples of Village School students' work! They will be returned to the students at the beginning of April.
- **Help for Haiti Penny Drive:** Our school collected **\$184.66** during our Penny Drive! If you would like to make a donation, please contact Megan Bassett at meganbeet@msn.com or call 541-543-9536. KPFF Consulting Engineers has agreed to match the donation our children collected. If you would like to make a donation to be matched, please contact Megan by Tuesday, 2/16/10. Thank you for all of your help!
- **Helping Struggling Readers Become Successful Readers:** This is the title of the talk that well-known reading specialist, Jill Schwimmer will be presenting to parents and teachers of Village School, Ridgeline Montessori School, and the Eugene Waldorf School on Tuesday, March 9th. Jill's talk is an overview of "...the why (theory), the what (method), and how (application) to nurture successful readers." Learn how to help children in grades three and up become great readers by using an appropriate mix of vocabulary, visual cues, their knowledge of the world, and language structure. Jill's talk will begin at 7 PM and will take place in the school cafeteria. Donations for this event will be appreciated.
- **The Children's Program Initiative to Bring Dental Services to Uninsured Students:** ODS and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) are launching an effort, The Children's Program, to provide access to basic dental services for uninsured 6-12 year olds at no charge once they have been enrolled in the program. Please contact Ilana for more information: (541)345-7285.
- **All Oregon Children Now Have Access to Health Care under Healthy Kids Plan:** Last week, Governor Kulongoski announced that all Oregon children now have access to comprehensive health care under the state's Healthy Kids plan, KidsConnect.

Healthy Kids provides access to health care in three ways: 1) No-cost option through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP); 2) Low-cost options through cost-share models; and 3) Full-cost options through newly-created state-sponsored private insurance plans - depending on family income.

No Cost: The plan provides free coverage through the Oregon Health Plan for children in families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$44,100 for a family of four).

Low-Cost: The program offers a cost-share model to assist Oregon's middle-class families earning between 200 -300 percent of the federal poverty level (between \$44,100 - \$66,000 a year for a family of four). These families earn too much to qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, but too little to purchase private insurance on their own. On a sliding scale, these families share the cost with the state or can receive a subsidy to help pay for their child's coverage through an employer-sponsored insurance plan.

Full Cost: For children in families with incomes above 300 percent of the federal poverty level (or \$66,000 for a family of four), the program provides access to a new state-sponsored private insurance plans collectively called Healthy KidsConnect. These families pay the full premium.

To date, the state has enrolled more than 30,000 children in Healthy Kids. The goal is to enroll 80,000 children by the end of this year.

Parents can learn more about Healthy Kids and apply online at www.oregonhealthykids.gov

Dear Village School Families:

Thank you to the many parents who took time to complete the No Child Left Behind survey that has been circulating for the past week. The survey is now closed.

By now, you have all received at least one letter that begins, "As you may know, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal law has placed new requirements on schools, districts and states. Among the new requirements is the reporting of teacher qualifications."

When the Village School was founded ten years ago as one of the first charter schools in Oregon, the intention of the charter school law was to provide a vehicle for creative and innovative approaches to public education. The specifications for teachers in charter schools are not limited to the same specifications dictated by Oregon State law.

Because our approach is inspired by Waldorf education, our hiring process values among other criteria, Waldorf teacher training which typically takes two years. We also place high value on teachers who may come from a more traditional teacher preparation, but who are drawn to our mission and who are willing to do some training in Waldorf education. All Village School classroom teachers have Bachelors Degrees and some have Masters Degrees as well. Village School teachers who do not have Waldorf teacher training certificates have Oregon State teaching licenses. We are fortunate to have an outstanding teaching staff whose dedication manifests the vision and mission of the Village School.

Sincerely,
Martha Collins
Administrator

Gentle Reminders

- **Parents of grades K-3:** Please walk your children into the wing and pick them up outside the classroom at the end of the day. The school day begins at 8:30 AM.
- **Supervision:** The school day ends at 2:45 PM. There will be no supervision provided after 3 PM.